

To care for him who has borne the battle, and for his widow and orphans."

The National Tribune.

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JOHN McELROY, Editor.

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WASHINGTON, D. C., OCT. 15, 1908.

NOTICE.

When you send in your subscription

always state whether renewal or new subscriber.

When you renew from another post office give former address as well.

When change of address is desired be sure to give former address.

The tabs which they are keeping on

the dirt flying on the latrines are very interesting.

The highest record yet made by a shovel in the 70-ton class

was made in August by shovel No. 102,

which excavated 42,684 cubic yards of earth,

a total of 42,684 cubic yards. The best

record previously made by a shovel of that class was No. 115, which took out

42,361 yards in 26 days.

The President's attention having been

called to the alleged order by the Governor of the Pacific Home against veterans

wearing their G. A. R. badges, caused the Secretary of War to make

inquiry. The Governor replied that he had issued no such order, and that the

report arose from the Inspector at his last visit having condemned the way

the uniforms had been injured in making places for the buttons.

How little hope the negroes have for

any fair treatment at the hands of Mr. Bryan and those behind him is evidenced

by the attitude of John H. Atwood, of Leavenworth, Kan., member

of the National Democratic Committee for that State. He has come out strongly

for the disfranchisement of the negroes in Kansas, and laments loudly the

evil effects upon the State of allowing them to vote. He says that they are

"a social and political menace." The mixed schools are productive of a host

of troubles which have made Kansas "intolerably weary of the negro political

and of the mixed school." There are 1,700,000 negroes in Kansas, of whom

51,000 are negroes, and these cast about 10,000 votes.

Wisconsin is very proud of her Soldiers' Home, and the Grand Army of the Republic takes much credit to itself

for the effective work it has done in providing a refuge for the veterans

that has every comfort they can expect. The Department of Wisconsin, G. A. R., thinks that the State Home

leads all others in the perfection of its appointments. The buildings, the accommodations, the sleeping quarters

and the food are good enough for any man, no matter how luxuriously raised.

They are better than in many first-class hotels. The Woman's Relief Corps

has been a great factor in bringing the Home to this state of perfection, and

the following comrades are mentioned as entitled to a special credit: Capt. J. H. Marston, Col. J. H. Woodworth, Col. B. F. Bryant, the late A. O. Wright, the late A. J. Smith, George L. Thomas, the late Maj. W. R. Roberts, C. H. Henry, J. P. Rundle and David J. James.

Germany is a country where the Government taxes really count, and every penny has its weight upon the people.

In this country the Government taxes are unfair, and our only burden are those levied by the local authorities for purely local purposes.

Germany wants a big navy, and in order to get it must increase taxes. Somebody must pay for it, and it is interesting to see in what directions the Government looks for the desired revenue.

Two years ago the Government put a small tax on railway tickets, which has operated very unfavorably, as it brought but a small revenue and decreased the travel, particularly the first class. The tax was quite small, great numbers of people preferred to travel second-class rather than pay the increase. Now another scheme will be tried which does not look any more favorable. It is to tax the advertisements in newspapers and on posters.

The Comedy in the Eastern War Scare is the situation of Serbia. Serbia is a small kingdom of 13,650 square miles, or about half the size of Indiana, and a population of 2,700,000. The people are Slavs, very ignorant and backward, and the Government, like that of Russia, is a despotism tempered by assassination. The King and queen were brutally murdered five years ago. Serbia claims to be the oldest of the Balkan States, and aspires to annex the others around her, and be the leader. She declared war last week, called out her reserves, and started to set Europe on fire, when she was brought to a sudden halt by the discovery that she had not ammunition enough on hand to fight a skirmish. She has to buy all her war-like supplies in Germany, and get them by the railroad thru Switzerland and Austria. Both those countries had warning of Serbia's proposed fracas, and refused to let the cartridges pass. In this simple way Serbia found herself corked up and obliged to simmer down. What grace she could.

A VOTE FOR WM. H. TAFT

Is:

A vote for the best man and candidate;

A vote for all the policies and principles which have made this country great;

A vote for all that President Roosevelt has stood for;

An expression of gratitude for all that Congress, President Roosevelt and Commissioner Warner have given the veterans and their widows;

A vote of thanks for the McCumber and Widows' Pension Bills;

An approval of President Roosevelt's vigorous and practical reforms;

An expression of desire that the country may be kept unchecked and unserved on its present steady course of splendid development;

A vote of confidence in the men who have so wisely and skillfully raised the country from the Slough of Despond of 1892-96, and inaugurated the wonderful prosperity we have enjoyed since.

No reflecting man can see this vote in any other light.

THE LAMP OF EXPERIENCE.

"I have but one lamp by which my feet are guided, and that is the lamp of experience. I know no way of judging of the future but by the past."—Patrick Henry.

We cannot too strongly commend this sage utterance of one of the Fathers of the Republic to the veterans of all wars at this present juncture.

They can only read the future by the past, and the past is exceedingly instructive at this time, when they are being importuned to vote for Mr. Bryan and install not only him in power, but the same controlling elements which came into office with Mr. Cleveland.

The direct consequences to all veterans, their widows and orphans of the success of the elements which made Mr. Cleveland President are still sorrowfully fresh in the minds of the comrades and those who are connected with them.

The records of the Pension Bureau mournfully eloquent on this subject. The following is an official letter from the Commissioner of Pensions, introducing the subject concisely and forcefully:

Department of the Interior, Bureau of Pensions, Washington, Oct. 8, 1908.

Editor National Tribune: In compliance with your personal request of this date, I have the honor to forward herewith a copy of an order, No. 164, issued by Green B. Raum, Commissioner of Pensions, on June 27, 1890, defining the procedure to be followed in the adjudication of invalid claims under the provisions of the act of June 27, 1890, in disregard of the terms of said act, and in conflict with the ruling of this Department in the case of Charles T. Bennett, this day transmitted to you.

Respectfully, Hoke Smith, Secretary.

This was speedily followed by Order No. 226, which carried sorrow to tens of thousands of homes of veterans and their widows and dependent ones. The order read:

Order No. 226. June 7, 1892.

To properly comply with the order of the Honorable Secretary of the Interior of May 27, 1892, revoking Order No. 164, and directing the Commissioner to "have an examination made to determine what pensions have heretofore been allowed under Section 2 of the act approved June 27, 1890, in disregard of the terms of said act, and in conflict with the ruling of this Department in the case of Charles T. Bennett," it is deemed necessary to organize a "Board of Revision."

The following named gentlemen are hereby detailed as members of this Board, viz:

J. R. Van Meter (Acting Chief), Dennis Kerr, Charles M. Bryant, L. W. Dalton, Herbert W. Olmstead, Joseph Loughran, Thomas G. Randall, Henry H. Hough, Thomas H. Dawson, Dr. John P. Keenan, Dr. W. W. Pierce, Dr. James K. Boud, Thomas De Loach, Thomas P. Randolph, John J. Freeland, Winfield F. Works, Wm. J. McDonald, Charles B. Hemminger, Paul Kelso, John A. Williamson, William W. Van Loan, Dr. Thomas D. Ingram, Dr. August N. Coolidge.

The duties of the Board of Revision shall be to draw from the admitted files, as rapidly as may be practicable, all cases allowed under Sec. 2 of the act of June 27, 1890, and to determine whether the allowances are in accordance with law.

The Board will act under the immediate supervision and direction of the Commissioner, who will give proper instructions as to the manner of procedure.

The Chief Clerk will see to it at once that proper accommodations are provided for the Board, and will detail the necessary force of typewriters, file clerks and messengers as soon as an organization is effected.

(Executed.) William Lochren, Commissioner.

As a matter of actual history this Board did with thoroughness and harshness the odious work for which it was constituted. Every pension granted was carefully gone over with a scrutiny that was so rigid that it became malicious, to discover some reason for cutting down its allowances or stopping it altogether. Men had struggled painfully and anxiously to get upon the Pension Rolls and obtain from the Government that measure of justice which had been promised them when they enlisted, and which they then sorely needed to aid them in the decline of their powers, when age was making the hardships of their army service painfully manifest. They had searched the country for their old officers and comrades to obtain evidence, they had lived years of anxiety, awaiting the collection of proof, and the action upon it of the Pension Bureau, and now, after having completed all this and secured an allowance, they were subjected to a harsh scrutiny and called to re-prove their cases at a time when their witnesses were dead and the returning of the evidence impossible. They were dropped from the rolls by the ten thousand, and widows were reduced to the depth of distress by the stern withdrawal of their meager stipends. The crying injustices perpetrated by this Board of Revision became so manifest and intolerable that Congress had to act by making a pension a vested right and stopping the merciless and unjust inquisitions.

Not only this, Hoke Smith, Secretary of the Interior, and William Lochren, Commissioner of Pensions, went to Congress for extraordinary appropriations and received \$500,000 a year for

but every veteran will at once recognize its eminent rightfulness and justice. How bitter the feeling of the present Bryanites against this measure of right was is attested by the speed with which they reversed it upon attaining to power. They lacked the courage to absolutely repeal the Act of June 27, 1890, but determined to reduce its benefits to the veterans by every art which a pettifogging lawyer could bring to bear to neutralize a law. Hoke Smith, one of Bryan's supporters in the South, and who will undoubtedly have much to say in the event of Bryan's election, issued the following order but a little over a month after Mr. Cleveland was inaugurated:

Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C., May 27, 1893.

To the Commissioner of Pensions, Sir: Order No. 184, signed "Green B. Raum, Commissioner of Pensions," and approved, "Cyrus Russey, Assistant Secretary," of date Oct. 15, 1892, is hereby revoked.

You will prepare, for approval of the Secretary, new rules and regulations covering the proof of the right to pensions and rates of same in accordance with the provisions of Sec. 2 of the act of Congress approved June 27, 1890.

Your attention is directed to the fact that the disabilities which are pensionable under this section must be of a permanent character, insusceptible for the performance of manual labor to such a degree as to produce inability to earn a support. You will observe also that the rate of pension is fixed at not less than \$4 nor more than \$12 per month, proportioned to the degree of inability to earn a support.

You will have an examination made to determine what pensions have heretofore been allowed under Sec. 2 of the act approved June 27, 1890, in disregard of the terms of said act, and in conflict with the ruling of this Department in the case of Charles T. Bennett, this day transmitted to you.

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Not only this, Hoke Smith, Secretary of the Interior, and William Lochren, Commissioner of Pensions, went to Congress for extraordinary appropriations and received \$500,000 a year for

the purpose of governing the country with secret service men, who went into every community to gather up the malicious neighborhood gossip about every veteran's character, his ability to work, his personal habits and so on, to secure evidence to deny him a pension. They even assailed the character of the poor old widows, and the Pension Office files today hold a repulsive lot of calumnies gleaned from vile neighborhood gossip, assailing the personal character of the women who had been true and faithful wives to veterans, had nursed their soldier husbands during their mortal illnesses and were now striving to raise the families which had been left them. This proceeding alone was enough to stamp the administration of the Pension Bureau with infamy. Not only this, but all the other Departments of the Government, the Post Office, the Attorney-General's Office and other agencies were brought to bear to assist the Pension Bureau in its work of cruelty and defamation.

Compare all this with the magnificent record of the past four years under Roosevelt and Commissioner Warner, when the number of pension certificates issued has steadily increased from 89,654 to 328,673 in 1908. The average annual value of each pension has increased from the four years from \$184.84 to \$167.58. All this with a saving of \$598,000 a year in the administration of the Pension Bureau, an absolute cessation of Cleveland and Lochren's aggravating espionage upon the veterans and their widows, and sympathy and helpfulness taking the place of hateful suspicion, and goading disparagement.

To return to the text with which we began, we have but one lamp to guide our feet, which is that of experience, and we can only judge the future by the past.

GUARANTEEING BANK DEPOSITS.

All Mr. Bryan's political heresies, that of a National guarantee of bank deposits is far the most dangerous. It is the rankest and most odious form of imperialism, and in its ultimate consequences is far worse than the worst tyranny of the Czar.

His proposition for Government ownership of the railroads meant the extinction of the States and a more than Russian concentration of power in the hands of the Government at Washington. His proposition for a Government guarantee of bank deposits goes even much farther than this, and would put every man and woman in the United States in the complete power of some Government official or clerk in Washington. Anyone can see this upon a little reflection. If the Government is going to guarantee bank deposits it must have the fullest knowledge at every moment concerning them, how much money is in every bank and what is being done with it. It must have supervision of every loan, investment and use of the bank's money. It would be absurd to give a guarantee unless the Government had the closest and the most intimate knowledge of the deposits and the uses to which they were being put. It must have the right to say absolutely whether this or that loan shall be made, this or that investment accepted, whether the money shall be retained in the vaults or loaned out, and so on thru all the functions and responsibilities that are now exercised by the President, cashier and Board of Directors of each bank. This is so plain and obvious that it only needs to be stated to be seen at once.

Think of the tremendous danger of such a despotism over every man's money. As its last result this despotism must be exercised by a little ring here in Washington, made up of the men to whose interest it is to control the money of the country, and to tighten or loosen the grip upon the people's pocketbooks as may suit their schemes and purposes.

The much-complained-of tyranny of Wall Street over the money of the country would be a light, silken restraint compared to this iron fetter. Wall Street can only manipulate the money that happens to be in the New York banks, and it has only a limited power over that. The guarantee of Government deposits would put every man's little hoard in a bank at the complete disposal of the ring which would speedily form in Washington.

The proposal is so repugnant to everything which has heretofore passed for Democracy that it is astounding to have it come from a man claiming to be a Democrat. All of the great men in the earlier history of the Democracy were tormented by a fear of the growth of the money power. It was this fear which incited President Jackson's lifelong bitter hostility to the United States Bank, and his dread of such a despotism was participated in to the fullest extent by every Democrat whom the party honors. Hostility to any concentration of the money power in the hands of the Government or of any close ring has been from the first a cardinal principle of the Democracy. Nothing ever proposed by the strongest centralizers could possibly be so obnoxious to our individual freedom and local self-government as this proposal to put all the money in every little community directly under the clutch of a ring in Washington or elsewhere.

THE TEXAS TANK SQUAD.

John B. Hood, Camp U. C. V., Austin, Tex., had a warm time at his last meeting, and the action upon it of the Pension Bureau, and now, after having completed all this and secured an allowance, they were subjected to a harsh scrutiny and called to re-prove their cases at a time when their witnesses were dead and the returning of the evidence impossible. They were dropped from the rolls by the ten thousand, and widows were reduced to the depth of distress by the stern withdrawal of their meager stipends. The crying injustices perpetrated by this Board of Revision became so manifest and intolerable that Congress had to act by making a pension a vested right and stopping the merciless and unjust inquisitions.

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